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A NEW
AND
MERRIE PROGNOSTICATION:

Being a *Diuturnal* Satire,

COMPANIMENTALLY ASSIGNED TO

WILL SUMMERS, THE JESTER,
AND THREE OTHERS;

NOW FIRST REPRINTED FROM THE VERY RARE EDITION

OF 1622.

EDITED BY

JAMES O. HALLIWELL, Esq. F.R.S.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY THOMAS RICHARDS.

1850.

A PROGNOSTICATION.

A NEW
AND
MERRIE PROGNOSTICATION:

Being a Metrical Satire,

SUPPOSITITIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO

WILL SUMMERS, THE JESTER,
AND THREE OTHERS;

NOW FIRST REPRINTED FROM THE VERY RARE EDITION
OF 1628.

EDITED BY

JAMES O. HALLIWELL, Esq., F.R.S.

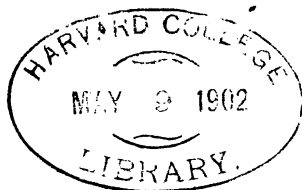
LONDON:

PRINTED BY THOMAS RICHARDS.

—
1860.

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Fine money.

P R E F A C E.

THE little book, reprinted in the following pages, appears to be of singular rarity. Lowndes mentions it, p. 1508, col. 2, but without any reference to a copy. It is not in the rich collection of early English literature preserved in the Bodleian Library, nor do I trace a copy in any collection excepting in the rich one of Heber, where it occurs in the fourth part of the *Bibliotheca Heberiana*, No. 2250. It was purchased by Thorpe, and is now, I believe, in the Miller collection.

These mock prognostications had been very long in vogue, and the prototype of the one now published may be sought for in one printed as early as 1544, entitled, "A Mery Prognostication," written in ridicule of those false prognostications against which Henry the Eighth considered it

necessary or advisable to level a proclamation. It commences as follows, with lines very similar to those in the first stanza of the address of "the Author to the Reader," in the following pages,

For the yere of Chrystes incarnacyon,
A thousande fyve hundreth fortye and foure,
This to pronostycate I may be bolde,
That when the newe yere is come, gone is the olde.

Dr. Whoball, one of the four doctors mentioned in the original title, is celebrated in Bernard's translation of Terence, 1598: "*Se deludi facile haud patitur* ; you cannot easily make him a foole ; he is none of John Whoball's children ; hee will be abused at no man's hands if he may." I have not met with any other notice of this personage. Will Summers is, of course, the celebrated jester to king Henry the Eighth. The two other made-up names are probably of the author's own invention.

The original edition of this satire is ornamented, or, as some might say, disfigured, by a series of woodcuts evidently borrowed from some contem-

porary almanac, consisting of figures intending to represent the signs of the zodiac. A small one, Cancer, is on the title page, and seven others are in the body of the work.

Two or three very coarse lines and words have been necessarily omitted. In other respects the following pages represent an accurate copy of the original.

A New and Merrie
PROGNOSTICATION :

Devised
AFTER THE FINEST FASHION.

*Made and written for this present yeare,
By foure witty doctors, as shall appeare,
Spendall, Whoball, and Doctor Dews-ace,
With them Will Sommer takes his place.
They have consulted all indeede,
To solace them, that this shall reede.*

AT LONDON :

Printed by *Edward All-de*, and are to be sold by
John Tapp, at his Shop at Saint Magnus
corner. 1623.

A PROGNOSTICATION.

*Of Hoball, Spendall, Will Sommer, and Dews-ace,
I, studying in my sicknesse space,
Did peruse their skill made of astronomie,
Of which hereafter followeth the certaintie,
As well of every season this yeare,
As all other likelies that are like to appeare.*

*In reading of this memorie,
Omit to judge the certaintie ;
Herein we have nothing resited,
But as by learned prooffe united.*

*Devised is this merrie toy,
Even for to make some merry joy ;
Reporting what shall hap this yeere,
Not often wont so to appeare ;
Except some strange astronomie,
Like this may hap as diversly.*

THE AUTHOR TO THE READER.

A true and perfect prognostication
For the yeere of Christes incarnation,
Sixteene hundred twenty and three so true,
The old yeere is gone when there commeth a new.

Made by foure doctors of great reputation,
Which altogether have had consultation :
In proving their cunning of very great skill,
To tell you of planets both good and ill.

And to shew of the signes as neere as they can,
Of dearth and of plenty, of newes, and what than ?
Yet peradventure, ere the yeare come about,
Some of them may chaunce, without any doubt.

The first and principallest maister of all,
Is named the learned Sir Doctor Hoball.
The second of them, where so ever he came,
Was Sir John Spendall, so called by name.

The third hath to name good Doctor Dews-ace,
The excellentest doctor that ever was ;
The fourth and last, is Will Summer in deede,
A very good man, and proved at neede.

THE PREFACE.

BECAUSE it becommeth not daunccke fooles,
Newly start up in choplogicke schooles,
To take upon them the knowledge mysticall
Of our high science astrological.

And to prognosticate this and that,
As though they sate in God Almightyes lap,
We commit the matter to some other man
That is better learned then we, by Saint Anne.

To such as in astronomy have good skill,
For naturall fooles will be fooles still,
But all things be heere declared and tolde,
To heare it againe you may be bolde.

It is written behinde, *secundum Lucam*,
In the torne leafe, *capitulo nusquam*,
Therefore what I say on warrantise,
You shall finde all true, or otherwise.

This worke have we, with good deliberation,
Studied the rather for mans recreation ;
Therefore I will tell you, of this prognostication,
How and in what manner he takes his operation.

This prognostication, uprightly said,
Is to deeme thinges, before they be made,
By constellation and astronomy,
Of planets and starres fixt in the sky.

Because therein we know our part,
As very studious in that goodly art.
Secret with God, familiar above,
And to our brethren of very perfect love ;

We have compast this prognostication,
That doth extend to every other nation ;
Yet wish wee good and ever shall
Unto this realme, and in especiall

The native countrey and breeder of our blood
Doth cause us still to wish it more good ;
But certainly this is sure for ever,
Which shall last three dayes after never.

Yet is it not Evangely, nor Bible,
Nor other thing impossible :
And when you have the matter examined,
If yee beleewe it not, yee shall not be damned.

W. W.

CONCERNING THE ECLIPSE.

PERUSING the olde and auncient doctors,
I speake neither of pedlers nor proctors,
This yeare shall be a kinde of eclips,
Because the carters doe occupy whips.
Yet an aspect there shalbe that men shall sure dye,
The deafe shall not heare, nor the blinde see :
But when it shall bee in all or in part,
If I can tell, I beshrew my heart.
Albeit in some place it may be totall,
For they that are starke blinde shall not see at all ;
Yet for all that, by Albumazare,
My lord maiors horse is not John Cookes mare.
But, what is John Cookes mare e're the warse,
If yee take up her ?
This aspect, I tell you, doth signifie plaine,
That the 9th of Aprill it may chance to raine.
And therefore Shrovetide doth also show,
That by the colde of the ayre it is like to snow.
So that many shall wish and also desire
To warme them if they could get any fire,

For Aries and Taurus have hurt their knees [skies,
With the push of their hornes, in the midst of the
And Virgo waxt wanton for joy of Gemini,
Swearing and staring, that she incontinently
Will married be to the man in the moone
Without delay, the next day after-noone.
Then Sagitarius, with his bowe bent,
Thought in his anger to make some shent,
Drew foorth a shaft, and shot so neere the marke
That he gave the end of February such a yarke,
So that he was glad to leape over one.
For else if he had stood, thousands had bin gone.
And thus, by the discord and disdaine
That is among them, we finde it plaine.
Whereby we note many great wonders
That may hap this yeare, by tempest and thunders;
Yet shall not fiers be great this yeare,
By reason that billets and coles be so deare.
Notwithstanding, I intend, as neere as I can,
To tell you of thinges that shall hap now and than;
Which surely yet, ere the yeare have his race,
Yee shall see some of them hap and take place.
By this yee may see the change of the moone
Shall change before, after, or just at noone;
As for other conjunctions, they shall bee
Even when it pleaseth the Trinitie.

OF THE FOURE QUARTERS OF THE
YEARE.

Now, if we may be so bold with the carters,
This yeare doubtlesse shall have foure quarters :
Prime time, sommer, harvest, and winter,
And thereto hath granted Master John Spinter.
We finde, by the calculation of the sphære,
That you shall have foure termes this yeare :
Two in winter, and two in sommer,
Wherein many honest men have great comber.
If our divination seeme not worth a straw,
Then aske our masters, the men at the law,
Which had rather heare of Westminster Hall,
Then to reade the 'Pistles of Saint Paul.
These quarters, in deed, shall make such variety,
Some drunken men wot not where they be.
As for the weather, it shall be mutable,
And womens mindes much variable.
Winter colde, and sommer hot ;
Sometimes it shall raine, and sometimes not ;
Sometimes snowe, except great marvaile ;
Sometimes mist, and sometimes haile.
Yea, and the planets shall cause such weather,
That it shall shine and raine altogether.

But where, and when, and how it shall be,
In what part and coast of each countrey,
By Taurus and Pisces, I finde it perfectly,
When it comes you shall know as well as I.

OF THE SPRING.

Yet in some part of the spring season
Folkes will make pottage, as I thinke, with peason;
Whereupon Virgo, as clerkes doe finde,
Shall be much given to thunder and winde.
One reason is, which doctors doe marke well,
Milke shall not be so deare as muskadell.
Venus shall have so strong a regiment,
That some shall need to be shriven in Lent.
Notwithstanding, I feele, some doctors doe vary
Upon this text, *nihil argent marie*.
Now if that Aprill had hapt in May,
Ostlers should make but small bottles of hay;
Also it had beene a hot yeare for bees,
For then had the moone been like a greene cheese.

OF SOMMER.

After the spring-time sommer comes in,
And long before winter it doth begin.
This yeare, they say, it will begin in June,
Then shall they goe barefoot that doe lack shoone.
Be it moyst or dry, it proceeds of the ayre ;
But if it be not foule, it shall be faire.
In sommer the sunne such heate shall give,
That none may take up water with a sive ;
Yet if the moone keepe her course aright,
The sunne with us shall not shine at midnight.
For Mars is rough, and Venus is milde,
And therefore an olde knave is no childe.
When the sunne and moone are in conjunction,
Hard-hearted folkes shall want compunction ;
But when the sunne is in opposition,
Many shall be full of bad condition.
Divers of the planets are inclined to heate,
Men shall not be colde as long as they sweate.
For divers planets raigneth in this place and that,
Which I would tell you, if I knew where or what.
And though Cancer be crooked, yet as I weene,
In most parts sommer shall be greene ;
But considering the heate, some will not shrinke
To spend the most part of their thrift in drinke ;
For Cancer and Leo, by my calculation,
Be great signs of inebriation.

OF HARVEST.

Such as play good husbands in the prime,
I trust shall have corne in harvest time ;
There shall be more corne, I put you out of doubt,
Unthresht, and growing the fields throughout,
Then all the bakers in London have
In their possession, so God me save.
There shall be such plenty, thanks be to God,
Of corne and straw full many a lode,
That all the men which be living this day
(In London) shall not eate it, I say.
But if Palme Sunday should fall in harvest,
Then were a blacke sheepe a perilous beast ;
Therefore Aquarius must take some paine,
Still in the firmament to remaine ;
For if it should chance the skies to fall,
We should have larkes, the divell and all.
Wherefore, both by reason and by law,
A sore scab'd tayle, is shrewd to claw ;
And by Libra I finde, that about harvest
The sunnes going downe shall be in the west,
And as you may say, on Ptolemeus mouth,
That the north pole is not in the south.
And by Mars it appeareth, I may tell you,
That an ape is no owle, nor an oxe a cow.
So when the cat is gone, the mouse may goe play,
And if they did not well, I pray God we may.

OF WINTER.

When sommer and autumnne are both gone,
Then will the winter be heere anon ;
So doe I think, yee are like to find
In this winter some rayne, some snow, and some winde;
For such is the conjecture of doctors olde,
How that naked people are like to be a-colde.
But Ptolome of all men hath good opinion,
That rosted mutton is good meate with an onion.
Yet as Libra and Scorpio doth passe,
All-hallowtide shall be after Michaelmasse
Well nigh five weeks ; master John Spooner
Hath made it sure, it shall be no sooner.
So when Scorpio hath once begun,
It may fortune to snow ere the winter be don.
And when Sol is entred into Capricorne,
I doubt not but some children shall be borne,
Most marvailously, with guts in their wombes,
And most of them all shall have two thumbes.
For if the sextile proceed *et reliqua*,
Then take heed of *segue altra* ;
But say Ptolomeus what him lust,
You shall finde it true, durt is no dust ;
How be it, all may not have their wills,
For the moone is higher then Malverne hills.

Yet by reason of the strong effect
Of Saturne and Mars, in their trine aspect,
Many a blast shall blow of full sower winde,
For both men and women
How be it, that is not so great a matter,
For men when they
So that to conclude of the whole yeare,
There be foure quarters in the fallow deere ;
As Michaelmas, Christmas, and our Lady in Lent,
And welcome home at Midsommer a yeare well spent.

OF THE TWELVE MONTHES.

As astronomers doe conclude and say,
In the reckoning the night with the day,
Though there were twelve months in the yeare before,
Yet this yeare shall have twice sixe, no more.
And every month containeth foure weekes,
Because in Lent they make pottage with leekes.
By the house of Saturne, which I have cast,
I tolde you before that yesterday is past,
And, whether it chance to shine or to raine,
It is too late to call yesterday againe.
This yeare shall be some mystes in the skies,
And raisins sometimes shall be in minc'd pies ;
Also, come it late or come it soone,

Every month once shall change the moone ;
By Mars and Mercury sometime I finde,
That there must be great store of winde :
For men and women when they have well dinde,
Shall have no power to
The blast shall be boysterous, bigge, and outragious,
Whereby the ayre must needs be contagious ;
And except God worke by his great grace,
The winde shall not alway stand still in one place ;
Sometimes the blasts shall be pretie and soft,
And sometimes of force they shall come aloft ;
But if the blasts breake out beyond the brinke,
The clouds cannot be cleansed, but the ayre must
But some at me might have great wonder, [stinke.
Why I declare nothing of thunder,
Of haile, of fire, of lightning and cloudes,
Of great tempest and raging flouds ;
Ye shall perceive and understand
That it may hap to thunder in the lowe land
Such claps, that he that by the way goes,
Shall be constrained to stop his nose ;
And in some places shall be such haile,
That the colliers horse may lacke his taile.
Some doctors thinke great fires shall not be,
And I am of that opinion truly.
My reason is, that fewell and cole
Is not so lightly given by dole ;

Yet the weather may hap to be so warme,
That a good fire cannot doe any harme ;
Yet the fire may be so hote in some house,
That some shall be burnt with a Winchester goose.
As touching lightning, who will wish worse,
Of all mischiefes, then an emptie purse ;
Which where it dwelleth, is so light of thought,
That he that lacketh money shall goe for nought.
And touching tempests, it shall not be behinde,
The weather-cocke of Paules had his nose in the winde.
Marriners and wherrie-men, that rowe on the Thames,
Shall not be able to save them from the sunne-beames.
Theeves shall not be angrie, when the dogge barks ;
If the element fall, we shall lacke no larkes.
Such shall be the tempest in many places,
That men, for debt, dare not shew their faces.
By Venus and Virgo it appeareth plaine,
That envious persons shall be full of disdaine.
Great trees shall fall downe out of doubt,
If they be hewen downe, or pluckt up by the roote.
Corne shall not be reaped, but where it is sowne ;
Hay is no hay, except it be mowne.
Flowers on the earth, and fruit on the trees,
Geese, capons, duckes, hennes nor bees,
The tempest this yeere may chaunce not bite,
If wives keep their chickens from the kite.
But now the nature of each moneth to showe

In a generall rule, here shall ye know.
 Sometime perchance the winde shall blow,
 Sometime it shall be calme and still, I trow ;
 Sometime the sunne shine, raine, haile and snow,
 And sometime in the ayre, perchance a rainbowe ;
 Sometime a cloud or mist, sometime cleare aire,
 Sometime foule weather, and sometime faire,
 In every moneth of the yeare throughout,
 One or other of these shall happen out of doubt.
 Saving, I gather, by one signe or other,
 Little snow or none shall fall at Midsommer ;
 Saving also this yeere Capricorne
 Biddeth some folkes to beware the horne :
 For if Mars and Taurus in one circle meete,
 The moone may hap to shine in Watling streete.
 Then the cocke crew, and then it was day,
 The bullock broke loose, and the rope ranne away.

OF DEARTH AND SCARCITY.

By the operation of them before said,
 The diligent working of the starres well wayed,
 This yeere shall be plenty, and good cheape of flies,
 Of trifles for women, of gaudes, and of lyes.
 Also great plenty of hunger and colde,
 Nakednesse, wearinesse, small thrift of olde

Harbourlesse, idlenesse, pride and nicenesse,
Shall be seene in many that use much precisenesse ;
Little worke, losse of time, scoffing and mocking,
Plenty of quarrelling, and of gamesters flocking ;
Purse-picking, robbing, murther and hanging ;
Debt and slow payment, pledging and selling ;
Little trust, ill will, usurie and pilling,
With dispossessing, briberie and polling,
Shall raigne this yeare in every quarter :
He shall know more that comes hereafter.
Also by the enticement and working of Sathan,
This yeare shall be scarcenesse, deny this who can ;
The want of good living, grace and mercy,
Of love and true faith, of peace and of pittie,
Of friendship, of joy, of truth and of concords,
Of neighbourhood, wealth, of good works in landlords,
Of visiting the sicke, the prisoner and lame,
The blinde, deafe and dumb, and the lepers by name ;
Of fatherlesse and strangers, small hospitality
Of almes, of good counsell, of justice and equality,
Of newnesse of life, and reconciliation,
Of holinesse, forgiving, and restauration :
Of righteousnesse and the true serving of God,
I doubt all vertues, and these are all odd.
Money with many this yeare shall be dainty,
But they shall lack nothing that have great plenty ;
Therefore whoso hath spent their thrift in waste,

By the course of stars, they shall have leave to fast :
For Jupiter shewes in the ascendent,
That nought is left when all is spent.
Yet is not that much against Ptolomea,
That there shall be store of water in the sea.
And I finde by Ptolomeus Almegests,
That many love well to goe to good feasts ;
But such as can get neither bread nor meate
Shall be full hungry when they would faine eate.
Yet some through hunger shall not looke so pale,
But others shall looke as red with good ale.
Now because rich men have store of money,
Gall is not all thing so sweet as honey.
Good sayings and doings shall be deere,
For charity is laid up till another yeere :
And if it be true, that I have heard tolde,
Malice is fervent and charity colde.
But there shall be plenty, I dare well say,
Of showers in Aprill, and flowers in May.
Yet Libra, in her equilibri pendent,
Sheweth, that for default of argent,
Many will be slacke to pay their rent,
Wherefore of their landlords they shall be shent :
Some-where there shall be so hote rost,
That such as come late must kisse the post.
And some where shall be such plenty of fish,
That some shall be faine to licke the dish.

Priests of their tithes shall be loath to want,
And Latine among them shall be very scant ;
For scarce one among tenne on a cluster,
Shall be able to conster their Pater noster.
Such as have enough shall have more still,
And such as nought have shall want their will.
As for corne and victuall, I put no doubt,
Shall be plenty and good, all England throughout ;
Except the great Snudges cause a dearth,
For never was there fairer seene on earth.
And because that fishmongers pare their fish,
Ye shall have of gubbins a plentiful dish.
Fruit enough scant, ye shall have this yeare,
That is to say, plums, apples, and peare ;
Walnuts, small nuts of all sorts,
Because boyes will have them for their comforts :
Corne shall be scant, if that it lacke price,
And cattell shall be deare if the market arise,
Because greedinesse with many doth grudge,
Never ruled with reason like a covetous snudge,
Not caring if thousands doe perish with paine,
So all things proceede to his owne private gaine.
Beefe, mutton, veale, capon, and coney,
This yeare get ye none, except ye have money.
All other things shall be at the same price,
Except onely cats, rats, and mice.
Ye shall have plenty of brawne and of sowce,

For every good taylor shall kill a great lowse.
Though monkes and friers be not in cloysters,
Yet may there be at Belingsgate plenty of oysters.
In Lent shall be larges of red herrings and sprats,
But without money ye get neither caps nor hats.
So shall be mackrels and playse, if the winde serve,
Soone set and sharpe teeth, both they quickly carve.
This yeare shall youth love apples and peares,
So shall some love to goe together by the eares.
Which is by reason, the doctors strongly admit,
That fooles this yeare shall have but little wit.
Yet fooles have good fortune, I cannot denie,
Though they have no more wit then they occupie.
And though quailes this yeare be very dainty,
Yet it is to be thought we shall have woodcocks plenty.
And rifer then either capon or goose,
For some shall have woodcocks at home in their house.
Wherefore I say some shall want, and some have,
And all because some will spend, and some will save.
But he that hath all thing, nothing shall lacke,
And he that hath nothing, shall goe to wracke :
In the heat of sommer many shall thinke
That claret wine with borage is a cup of good drinke.
Reapers and rakers of corne and of hay
Shall have but little to doe betweene this and May.
In harvest poore men may chance to lacke sithes,
But this yeare priests must have plenty of tithes.

OF THE COMPLEXIONS.

Of complexions, truly to speake,
Some be strong, and some be weake :
Some be in a meane, betweene them both,
Some to doe well are very loth.
Some men that shall be brought up in schooles,
Shall in conclusion be starke fooles :
For Saturne, Mercurie, Sol and Venus,
Jupiter, Pisces, and Aquarius,
Declare, by severall constellations,
That naughty knaves will use naughty fashions.
If any of the starres breake their olde rate,
Then God give you good morrow at Algate.
If cholloricke, this yeere will not be irefull,
Hasty, ambitious, and desirefull :
Then shall the complexion melancholick
Never be disposed to be frantick,
Nor the sanguine lusty, joyous and pleasant,
But the phlegmatick, active, fresh and pregnant.
This yeare, through celestiall influence,
A good halfe groat shall be worth two pence.
One thing there is that maketh me sad,
All cunning cutpurses shall be starke mad ;
This yeare their science shall sore decay,
And all their liberties taken away ;

For where they were wont to be burnt in the hand,
Being taken now, they must be hang'd.
Fooles this yeare shall not be wise,
But yet faire maydens will be nice.
Wives to their husbands shall be obedient
In all things that doe themselves content,
Nor will give them an ill word without doubt,
At least-wise if their tongues be cut out.
Otherwise of the matter I take no charge,
For Ptolomie speaketh of starres at large.

OF SICKNESSE AND DISEASES.

This yeare, such as be sicke indeede,
Of good physitians shall have neede :
Therefore of all aspects let folkes take heede,
For many shall drinke more then they shall bleede,
And some through Mercurie without doubt
Shall lye in Newgate that would faine be out ;
And most part of folkes shall have such qualmes
That very few shall lust to give any almes :
Some shall wish to have againe that they have spent,
Few this yeare with poverty will be content,
Yet this disease is like to raigne so sore
That beggers shall goe from dore to dore ;

Some wanting money shall both ban and curse
That the devill hath roome to dance in their purse.
Such as can the cardes and dice well handle,
When their money is lost, may hold the candle.
Some shall be driven through ache in their heads
To lye on benches for lacke of beds.
This sommer ensuing shall raigne such a disease
That many shall not sleepe in their beds for fleas ;
Many shall be sicke and brought so bare, [there.
They shall grope in their purses and finde nothing
Some doe beleeeve that in one moneth or other,
One man will not stick to deceive his brother.
Such a common disease in towne and citie
Shall raigne this yeare, the more is the pitie,
That some shall be brought so lowe and downe,
They shall not be able to change a crowne.
Other shall sing such a wofull note,
They shall not be able to change a groat :
Yet shall some of them be out-craked,
But for their cloathes they might goe naked,
For many that dwell in a poore cottage,
For lacke of meate, would eate good pottage.
And all is by reason that this yeare
All things shall be cheape, but money shall be deare.
Butchers shall have great paine and griefe,
Because they cannot sell dearer their biefe :
Which makes many, for lack of brawne and mustard,

To abhorre the eating of tart and custard.
 Some say it is by reason of the moone,
 Many shall sup their pottage for lacke of a spoone ;
 Others say, because the signes be in such heat,
 The people would fare well if they could get meat.
 Some shall say truth, and some shall goe by gesse,
 And other some shall goe to bed supperlesse ;
 After their first sleepe they shall be stricken with hunger,
 They would refuse neither capon or cunger.
 Some ere they be wise will needes be wed,
 And some wives shall leade their mates drunke to bed.
 Other some shall be so sore agast,
 They shall be faine for lacke of meate to fast.
 Some shall fast, and some shall pray,
 And some surely cannot tell what to say.
 Some shall be up, and some shall be downe,
 Some shall dwell in the countrey, and some in the
 Some shall have an horrible colde, [towne.
 That with other mens wives they will be bolde.
 This yeare shall be many builders,
 So shall some father other men's childers :
 In some place there shall be some folke [smoke,
 That with their wives kindnesse their shoulders shall
 Remedie none, but patience perforce,
 The gray mare sometime is the better horse ;
 As for the frensie, pockes, jaunders and piles,
 Many shall have sore kibes in their heeles :

Little money, lesse meate, nakednesse and such,
 Is thought by the doctors shall raigne too much.
 The gout, the gravell, and the greene sicknesse,
 The morpew, the measels, and other madnesse :
 As aches and agues, and all other disease,
 Shall raigne no more then God doth please.
 This yeare in Rome shall be great mone,
 That monkes and friers in England shall be none,
 And the papists they shall sigh and grone
 That Gogmagog their grandsire thus is gone.
 Soules in Purgatorie shall mervaille much,
 Why pardons doe not better keepe touch ;
 They shall feare least lobcock their pope be dead,
 For lacke of his bulles under waxe and lead.

{	Jesu Christi Amen.	}
{	Ave Italia de malo pena,	}
{	Papa noster qui es in Roma,	}
{	Malo diciter tuum nomen.	}

Some wives with agues shall shake so sore,
 That their husbands are like to smart therefore ;
 And some wives, for the eclipse that last was,
 Will make their husbands heads ring to masse.
 Schollers also shall have sheepe-biters lookes,
 With taking surfeit at their bookes ;
 Maydens also if they chance to doe ill,
 Will say it was against their will.
 But Venus will never let them alone,

Untill she have brought them in case to grone :
Therefore Libra (when women looke sickly)
Must way the matter somewhat likely,
For Aries, Taurus, and Capricorne,
Wil make them cry alas that ever they were borne.
Likewise through small wit, and feeble braine,
This yeare strange and wilde sicknesse shall raigne
Among the people, that is, phrenzie ;
This disease shall be in the head perdie :
Another sicknesse goeth therewith among,
Called quicke palsie, that visiteth the tongue ;
And the property of this palsie is such,
It maketh the tongue to shake and wagge much,
To babble, to prattle, to flout, and such like,
The body thereby is made hanging ripe :
As farre as I understand by this art,
It shall raigne in woman for the most part.
Many that over-night have drunke over-deepe,
Shall be so dry after their first sleepe,
That in the morning as soone as they be up,
They will get betweene the wall and the cup.
Some shall have so great a desire,
That they shall be cold for lacke of fire.
Some in their kitchen shall have such smoke,
That their eyes shall water of their wives stroke.
As for other sicknes that God doth send,
When it pleaseth him shall both begin and end.

OF PEACE AND WARRE.

Concerning peace, yee shall understand,
It shall be kept by sea and by land.
Betweene those bodies that now be dead,
And them yet alive, shall strive for no bread.
Also it shall rayne this yeare, I doe trust,
With all quiet people, whose living is just.
As touching warres, contention and strife,
This yeare, indeed, shall be very rife.
The greatest combate that is like to be
Is betwixt the flesh and the spirit truly :
This battaile so sore shall be fought indeed,
That hard it will be to know who shall speed.
Another there is, much like to the same,
Betwixt the ungodly in living past shame.
This battaile and strife shall rise by three,
By envy, jealousie, and ill husbandry.
These be the captaines that shall cause the fighting,
Brawling, quarrelling, scratching, and biting.
But in the end, by Sathan the devill,
Women shall have the victory with the foule evill.

OF INUNDATIONS AND FLOODS.

Yee shall understand, by covetous devise,
Water shall breake their bounds and arise
Into many ale-fats and beere-fats indeed,
Besides tunnes, and tubs, and barrels for need,
And into milke-pots, creame-pots, and other ;
Wine-pots nor pottage-pots shall escape neither,
Except good conscience put in his foote,
We may curse covetous to the heart roote.
We are like to have this yeare, for a truth,
Small drinke and watry, which is great ruth :
Thin milke, thin creame, and thin pottage thereto,
If all bookes agree, as some other doe.
The rayne, in like manner, shall keepe him aloft,
The winde is not able to bid him soft ;
So that there shall raine, in very great routs,
Many beggers and bawdes, sluts, slovins and louts,
Whoores, thieves, and sluggerds, proude parrats and
pyes,
With a sort of fine shrewes, or else the booke lyes.
Beside the twenty five orders of knaves,
Rogues and ruffians, and paliardly slaves.

OF THEM THAT BE BORNE UNDER THE
PLANETS.

But now to treate of the planets seaven,
I finde not by them what is done in heaven ;
The most that I know of them in this case
Is that they never stand still in one place.
But under them many mad thinges be wrought,
And God above knowes every mans thought.
By Aquarius, I finde this yeere
Brewers shall put too much liquor in their beere ;
And vintners also will not swerve in fine,
For mingling and mixing water 'mongst wine.
Covetous men shall be in such a fury,
That he that lacketh money can not be merry ;
Which shall engender such a burning heate,
That many shall covet thinges they cannot get ;
Usurers shall be in such a rage,
That olde people shall dote for age.
Therefore when the sunne is in Capricorne,
Then shall not the eventide be the morne ;
But when into Aries entred is the moone,
Then just at midday shall be high noone :
Whereby it appeareth, as a plaine matter,
Most men thinkes wine is better then water.
But the foure windes never agreed worse,

For except each body shut well his purse,
One shall not afore blowe such a blast,
But another behinde shall blowe out as fast.
Thus *Touche la maine et fait a bon chere*,
When ye are gone, then are ye not here.
Now that ye may know them in especiall,
We will speake of them in generall.

OF THE SATURNISTES.

Where Saturnus is chiefe dominator,
No foole this yeare shall be a good orator.
Mercurie combust, sheweth a cause why :
A foole he was borne, and a foole he shall dye.
It should seeme also by Ptolomeus text,
Such as dye this yeare shall not dye the next ;
For the conjunction of Luna and Sol,
Will make in England many a drunken noll.
If Venus to Mercurie make her aspect,
Many sicke folke will be infect.
That people shall dote for age that be olde,
And such as be burned shall not die for colde :
But whether the people doe better or worse,
Saturne, I suppose, will keep his owne course.
And he would men should rather ride then goe,

But I say hastie men shall never want woe.
For if that all men did use for to ride,
It should greatly hinder Graves-end tide.
If the sunne be up, men shall see it shine
In all quarters, except they be blinde :
And although that cloudes doe cover his beames,
Yet may oyster-boates come upon Thames.

OF THE JOVISTES.

Because of Jupiter it doth appeare,
That each man would gladly prosper this yeare ;
But Saturne and Pisces declareth againe,
That some shall attempt many things in vaine.
Churchmen shall prosper and have good lucke,
Because they are willing to goe to their booke ;
Whose good devotion shall be so fervent,
They shall have no power to refuse preferment.
Bishops and prelates shall doe very well,
If they take paines to preach the Gospell ;
And if they truly declare the letter,
I trust they shall prosper much the better.
As for archdeacon, provost, and deane,
Will take fat benefices rather then leane ;
But as for other priests, every one

Will take three benefices rather then none :
 Saving that Aries putteth out of doubt,
 That such as can get none must goe without ;
 And after they have this life once forsake,
 They will no more worldly promotion take.
 Judges, and lawyers, and other officers,
 Shall doe as they have done other yeeres :
 Except they feede them with gold and groates,
 The men of law shall have sore throates ;
 And their tongues, I warrant you, shall be lame,
 Wherefore Libra must your matter frame.

OF THE MARCIALISTS.

Mars is the God of battaile and strife :
 That doth he feelee, that hath a curst wife.
 Therefore, good warriers, that to the field doe goe,
 Shall give or take blowes, if they come thereto.
 They shall not shrinke for winde and raine,
 But for the princes cause gladly take paine,
 To doe their king and countrey good,
 They will be ready to spend their heart blood.
 Schollers with their maisters will make many a fray,
 But the boyes will beare the stripes away.
 I finde, by the aspect of Mars and Virgo,

D

Some dames shall worke their maydens woe.
For Sol and Luna shall shine so bright,
That they shall finde faults both day and night;
And Saturne in his circle sheweth plaine,
That maydes ere they mend one fault will make twaine.
Great death of innocents Mars doth intend,
That never did speake ill word or offend;
Which is to declare without long preambles,
I doe remit you to the shambles.

OF THE SOLISTES.

All matters that are wrought under the sunne,
Shall end the better if they be well begun.
For the sunne this yeare, by Gods might and grace,
Shall shine and give light in many a place.
The day shall be longer, if men be in heale,
In sommer, then in winter, by a great deale.
Yet Albumazar saith full like a clarke,
When the sunne is gone downe, it will be darke.
The blinde men this yeare, by helpe of the moone,
Shall see as well at midnight as at noone.
Kings, princes, and lords of might,
This yeare shall see the sunne give light,
Except the cloudes cover his beames,
Or else it shall shine in all Christian realmes.

OF THE CHILDREN OF VENUS.

Venus in the eclips declareth newes,
That few honest women shall dwell in the stewes :
Therefore, who this yeare loveth in hast,
May hap to repent ere the yeare be past.
For Venus and Sol are inclined to heate,
So stockfish is not toothsome except it be beate.
Crafty men this yeare shall be very subtile,
And so shall many women be fraile and brittle.
Lovers shall burne in heate for larkes,
But one thing shall happen whosoever markes,
That men in many places, if they hit rightly,
Shall fall in favour with some women quickly ;
And women shall love more then their bellies will hold,
But hot love this yeare will be soone colde.
The children of Venus shall prosper but little,
Because that lazars shall be in the Spittle.
Some children of Venus shall burne in such love,
For every hand they will have a fit glove.
Some will love more then a thousand fold,
And some, if they might have more, they would.
Yet some by Venus promoted shall bee,
To have a roome at Three Cranes in the Vintree.
And because some folke love so hot,
Foolles bolts this yeare will be soone shot.

OF THE MARCURIALISTES.

Mercurie is patron of buyers and sellers,
Pillers, bribers, lyers, and tale-tellers.
Some shall be no gladder tales to beare,
Then other shall be to give them eare.
But such as can use the same thing well,
Shall surely to heaven if they scape hell.
Advocates, orators, proctors, and scribes.
Shall be sore tempted to take bribes.
Albeit the eclipse past declareth plaine,
Where ye suspect them of one they will take twaine.
Physitians this yeare great cures shall have,
And such shall escape as pleaseth God to save.
Surgeons, poticaries, and other such,
Shall gaine by selling little for much.
For some of them will sell for a pound,
That cost them nought but taking from the ground.
Men shall sell wares at sundry prices :
And some grocers, I thinke, shall sell spices.
Mercers shall utter sattin, and other silke,
Because the wives of Islington sell milke ;
And because therewith they make furmenty,
Lice with beggers shall not be dainty.
And because they make their cheese with curdes,
Women this yeare will be full of wordes.

Painters this yeare (if they list) may goe play,
 Women can paint and make themselves gay.
 Carvers, goldsmiths, taylers, and glasiars,
 Broderers, painters, writers, and devisers,
 By force of Mercury in the last eclipsall,
 Shall this yeare be very fantasticall.
 Advocates, as sergeants at the law,
 Shall say nothing for love nor for awe ;
 Except they be waged for silver and golde,
 They will forsake neither new nor olde.
 In each other science, I dare well say,
 Many will be doing, speed as they may.

OF THE LUNATISTES.

Because the moone is moyst and colde,
 They that dye young shall never be olde.
 Some men this yeare shall sayle into Spaine,
 And some, perchance, never returne againe.
 The eclips in this case puts out of doubt,
 That some fresh beggers will play banckrout.
 They that spend great sommes shalbe at great cost,
 And Neptune shall cause some ships to be lost.
 As touching the eclips past we cannot see
 How an owle should a nightingale be ;
 Therefore we will not our braines breake,

Of things we know not any more to speake.
For though our learning be not small,
Yet we prognosticators know not all.
Wherefore with us no rare thing it is,
Now and then to lye and say amisse.
I finde, by the moone and the seaven starres,
That porters in London shall lacke no carres.
They that be lunaticke shall be in a mad case,
And they that be unthrifty shall sure want grace.
In nights by moonshine men shall goe aright,
If they lacke not their limbes nor their eyesight.
Marriners shall be lucky to sayle into all lands,
If their ships chance not to sticke in the sands.
The moone as no marvaile shall seeme very greene
To them that the moone before hath not seene.
Some shall goe drunke to bed before the moone be up,
And some shall not love to drinke of a dry cup.
Messengers wits shall be so farre spent,
They sometimes shall forget wherfore they be sent.
If mad-men this yeare be as mad as hartes,
Then madmen shall surely play madmens partes.
To declare any further the eclips of the moone,
We can do no more then we have done.
The fashions of us prognosticators ever was,
To speake of some things that never come to passe;
Therefore when you shall our falshood espy,
Doe no more but give us a little leave to lye.

OF EARTHQUAKES AND THUNDER.

This yeare, because some unthrifths lacke grace,
A mervailous thing is a wonderous case.
If Venus doe raigne, except great wonder,
Some maydes will be afraid of thunder ;
For if such a toy come in their heads,
They will lye on the ground for lacke of beds.
Also, now and then, for Mars and Venus sake,
In some countries may happen an earthquake.
This yeare shall befall a wonderous case,
Saint Stephens day shall fall in Christmas ;
And except the greater hast be made,
Newyeares day shall keepe his olde trade :
Then shall rich men have presents and gifts,
Where the poore shall be put to their olde shifts.
Wherefore this yeare take heed to your bees,
For pearres and apples shall growe on trees.
The moone when it hath made a course,
Shall change ere forty dayes ye passe ;
Or else we shall be all the worse,
That are already in an evill case.
If your intent be spirituall,
Begin to flatter and lye apace ;
The court of Rome, I have heard say,
Is not corrupt with simony ;
But if that men list to assay,

There is nothing too deare for money.
Of benefices shall fall this yeare
In many places, and not to be solde,
But I am sure they shall be deare,
And changed for no worse then golde.
Certaine bishops in commandement
Shall counsaile priests to leave their sinne,
Men shall marvaile what they ment,
And say that they did first begin.
Preachers of Gods lawes
Shall rebuke our negligence ;
We shall say they be dawes,
What availes such audience ?
These fat monckes and rich abbies
Men shall make of them great wonder,
But when good house-keeping decayes,
How many men shall sterve for hunger.
Fryers and nunnes shall joyne in one,
It is no marvaile what I say,
For it is hard to live alone,
If they can finde another way.
Of abstinence we must speake a little,
And of obedience (*nihil*) ;
For chastity hath lost her stile,
And vertue driven to exile.
Now of the temporall I say,
A stella cometa shall raigne :

And cause them wander every day,
And know not how to ease the paine.
Mars menaceth great debate,
If Venus bring this geere to passe ;
I have not seene such sodaine hate,
Where so much love before time was.
There is like to be marvailles,
Who lives shall see the same :
But if you aske I know not yet,
It is good to be out of blame.
Poore folke that have nothing,
God shall give them leave to fast :
As I finde by writing,
Because they have spent much in wast.
Physitions great cures shall have,
And wisely looke them upon :
For golde and silver they will men save,
But very few shall scape or none.
Pothicaries shall be very rich,
By sirrups, oyles and confections ;
And cause poore men to pay too much
For that that shall cause infections.
All handy-crafts, I tell you sure,
Shall counterfeit and marre it cleane ;
That was before good to endure,
Shall now be scantly worth a beane.
Maydens shall be very nice ;

But secretly; if I shall speake,
The greater part shall all be vice :
It is a purpose hard to breake.
Wives shall be obedient
As any waspe, I dare well say,
And never easie to content,
Except their tongues be cut away.

And because some on the sea have had losse,
This yeare shall be sermons at Pauls Crosse.
And if it happen the curlue to be a quaile,
Then shall the greene mare have a blew taile.
Many great workes shall be taken in hand
In Italy and each other land ;
And women therein shall take great paine,
As much for pleasure as for gaine :
Yea, many gorgious and gallant girles,
And lusty women set with pearles,
Shall put their body in a readinesse
To labour in vile businesse ;
They shall desire above all things
That they might be mens underlings.
But because men cut their meate with knives,
Some shall have much adoe to rule their wives ;
For Saturne and Venus such course have taken,
That most part of women should beshrew shaken.
Yet for that good housewives doe spin flax,
Many this yeare shall worse then wax ;

And because the singing men divide their notes,
Many a good horse shall be fed with oates.
And what though a noble be worth xx groates,
Yet every man shall not have two coates ;
Black cloath this yeare shall be so deere
Throughout all England, as shall appeare,
That as you walke through every streete
You shall be sure not to meete
Two women cloathed in a gowne,
Of colour black, or colour browne.
Although sicke folkes heads doe ake,
Yet you shall see few dead men quake.
Some shall be sick, never the latter,
With biles and botches, and there riseth the matter :
But whose eyes will serve him to looke so hie,
In a cleare night, shall see starres in the skie.

OF KINGS AND PRINCES.

What kings and princes shall doe this yeare,
By processe of things, it shall appeare :
If we could tell, it were much mervaile,
For with none of them we are of counsaile,
But our assured trust and confidence is,
That nothing in this realme shall be amis.
What else they shall doe this yeare we cannot tell.

For in Gods secrets we were never seene so well ;
This realme, we trust, shall prosper and flourish,
As well as wit can devise, our hearts to nourish.
In hope hereof, all true English men,
With whole heart and minde, hereto say Amen.
To declare any further of their inclination,
The nature, quality and operation :
That the planets, signes, vertues, and of the element,
Are most inclined to this yeare present.
We are not able further to say,
But we beseech all men fervently to pray
That all things may abound in the commonwealth,
And at our last ending, everlasting health.

A SONG.

Kyrieleyson, sing wee, now merrily every one,
That honest mirth is more worth
Then silver, golde, or precious stone,
Taking thought who list, for I will take none.

All yee which be heere,
Unto us now draw neere :
Drinke good wine, ale, and beere,
Care not though mault be deere.

Learne this lesson at me first,
He that drinketh well shall never dye for thirst,
Kyrieleyson sing we, &c.

He that will not be glad,
We count him worse then mad :
As long liveth a merry lad,
As he that will be sad.

A light heart is the best jewell,
As Holy Writ doth plainely tell.

He is a churle by kinde,
That loveth no mirth to finde :
And death shall stop his winde,
For all his subtill minde.

Marke well, and you shall see
That a churle by kinde will never be free.

Beggers love brawling,
And wretches love wrawling ;
Cowards love jawling,
And grutchers still hawling.
But they that love their honesty
Will spend their money neighbourly.

Therefore, fill glasse and cup,
And drinke them friendly up :

Drinke not a niggards sup,
Care not for worldly mucke.

For this is true and ever shall,
The longest liver shall have all.

Therefore we count him wise,
That will not make it nice ;
Assoone as he doth rise,
To take his ale with spice :
As ginger is wholesome and good,
So good liquor nourisheth the blood.

Once againe fill the pot,
And drinke we at the lot :
And he that maketh the shot,
Without a full good pot,
Be he never so deare a friend,
Let him pay for all, and there an end.

FINIS.



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